

Church Caretakers:

This Week: Ken & Linda Pogorelec

Next Week: Shirley Koski & Barb Knapper

Pray for:

Military personnel: Sarah Skogman, Grace Koski

Area Fire Departments



***Harvest Community** is a shared journey of being transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ, experiencing and expressing love for God and others.*

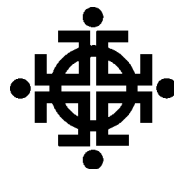
First Covenant Church of Virginia, MN

*The mission of First Covenant Church is to
WORSHIP God,
EQUIP people to live in faith,
SHARE God's love, and
SERVE the community around us.*

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Worship Celebration

May 22, 2022

9:30 am

Ascension Sunday

*Wait to be clothed with power from on high.
The one who ascended will come to us again,
bringing new life and new hope.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Pastor: Clap your hands, people of God.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Pastor: Look to the heavens, brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Witness the power of our God.

Pastor: Clap your hands, people of God.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Opening Hymn 263
265

A Hymn of Glory
All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

Opening Prayer

Reading of God's Word

Acts 1:1-11 (Pew Bible pg 830)
Ephesians 1:15-23 (Pew Bible pg 890)

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings
Doxology 48

Sermon

Luke 24:44-53 (Pew Bible pg. 809)
Jesus' Farewell

Pastoral Prayer**

Hymn 78

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Service of Farewell (*See Insert*)

Closing Hymn 430

Blessed Assurance

Challenge...Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious, gracious, gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you, give you, give you peace.

Postlude

+ + +

*Ushers: Roger & Judy Linden
Technical Assistance: Mike Hannay
Scripture Reader: Roger Linden*

***For Pastoral Prayer, you are invited to offer a prayer request or prayer praise. To do this, please write out your request/praise on a slip of paper provided in the pews (chairs). Then place them in the offering plate at the time of the Offering to be given to the pastor for prayer.*

For the Week of May 22

Sun 10:30am Coffee and fellowship
2:00pm Farewell / Retirement Celebration for
Pastor Dennis and Mary Anders.
Refreshments to follow.
Tues 1:00pm Serve Dinner at Salvation Army

Next Sunday – May 29, 2022

No Worship Celebration
2:00pm Service at Waterview Pines
*Ushers:
Technical Assistance:*

Coming Events

May 23-31 Pastor and Mary on vacation
June 5 Confirmation Sunday for Russel Carlson
and Magan Carlson. Dennis Anders, officiating.
June 8 6:30pm Council Meeting
June 23-25 Gather (Covenant Annual Meeting)
Delegate: Julie Hill
July 24 11:00am Summer Quarterly Business Meeting
July 31 All Church Picnic

SERVICE OF FAREWELL

Leader: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor Dennis and Mary Anders who are leaving.

Leader: On September 10, 2017, this congregation installed Pastor Dennis to serve as pastor.

Pastor: I thank First Covenant Church of Virginia, its members, and friends for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last five years. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for any mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We too ask your forgiveness for any mistakes we have made. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Pastor: I accept your gratitude, and forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

The leader addresses the congregation.

Leader: Do you, the members and friends of First Covenant Church release Pastor Dennis from the duties of pastor?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for Pastor Dennis' ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

The leader addresses the pastor:

Leader: Do you, Pastor Dennis, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you as pastor?

Pastor: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the relationship this congregation will develop with another who will come to serve after you?

Pastor: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, for remembered times when we together have shared the life of faith, we express our sincere gratitude. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Pastor Dennis and Mary in worship, in learning, in service, and in Christian living. We pray that they will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as they move to a new place, in the name of Jesus the Savior. God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

The leader hands a candle to the departing pastor, saying:

As a keepsake to remember us, accept this candle and light it in your next place of ministry. Remember that God's light always burns within you. Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.